Can. 412.23:(1425)

National Parks

IN ONTARIO CANADA

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Location of Parks

There are three national parks in Ontario—Point Pelee, St. Lawrence Islands, and Georgian Bay Islands. These areas are conveniently situated to provide recreation for visitors, and facilities to reach the parks are available by highway, water, and air.

Point Pelee Park is in the southwest corner of the Province, and is accessible from Leamington, on Highway No. 3.

St. Lawrence Islands Park comprises twelve islands and one mainland area, along the forty-nine mile stretch of the St. Lawrence River between Kingston and Brockville. The parks units are served by Highways No. 2 and 401, and can be reached by boat service from nearby towns.

Georgian Bay Islands Park is in the Georgian Bay region of Lake Huron and consists of thirty islands. Beausoleil Island, the largest, is about six miles north of Midland and two miles west of Honey Harbour. These towns are served by the provincial highway system. Waterbus service is available from these and other points.

The Canadian Pacific and Canadian National Railways provide service to points close to these national parks. Seaplane or amphibian aircraft can be landed near the shores of most of the areas comprising the parks.

Administration of the Parks

The national parks are administered by the National Parks Branch. The Superintendent of the National Parks in Ontario is located at Point Pelee. Resident Chief Park Wardens are in charge of Georgian Bay Islands and St. Lawrence Islands National Parks.

Protection of Plants and Wildlife

The National Parks Act requires that all parks shall be maintained and made use of so as to leave them unimpaired for the use of future generations. Plants and wildlife are rigidly protected. Picking of flowers, hunting and the possession of unsealed firearms are strictly prohibited. As the parks are game sanctuaries visitors must not in any way molest wild animals or birds. Dogs and cats may accompany a visitor into a park. For the protection of all park animals, however, dogs must be kept on leash.

Fees for camping in serviced campgrounds in the National Parks in Ontario are:

Tent—One day, 50 cents; one week $2.

Trailers—One day, 75 cents; one week $3.
Electricity (where available) 35 cents per day.

Camping permits may be obtained at Park Headquarters, or from park officers who patrol the campsites daily.

POINT PELEE NATIONAL PARK

Point Pelee National Park, established in 1918, comprises an area of six square miles on Lake Erie, and is within an hours drive of such industrial centres as Windsor and Detroit. Along the shoreline of the park are beautiful, broad silvery beaches shelving gently into the inviting blue waters of the lake, which provide ideal relaxation. Other recreational opportunities of the park include camping, fishing, bathing and Nature walks in summer and ice skating on the marsh ponds in winter.

The Park is a place of unusual beauty and interest, unique in supporting vegetation of a southern type, both luxurious and dense. Flora intruding from the south, and rarely discovered in northern latitudes, includes the cactus plants, red mulberry, and many other botanical species commonly found in more southern areas. The remarkable forest growth of the park includes red oak, white elm, red maple, sugar maple, silver maple, black walnut, white pine, and red cedar. Sycamore, sassafras, hackberry and blue ash also thrive, along with basswood, ironwood, chestnut, oak, swamp white oak, black oak, white ash, and shagbark hickory. Shrubs and bushes such as choke and sandcherry, service berry, raspberry, gooseberry, juniper, bearberry, sumach, and dogwood are common. Prickly pear, a species rare in Canada, grows in open areas, and wild grape and other vines drape in primitive tangles over trees and bushes.

The Park lies within one of the main routes followed by waterfowl and other birds on their northern and southern migrations and is one of the most important bird sanctuaries in Eastern Canada. Wild ducks, Canada geese, and swans all find shelter and resting places in the hundreds of acres of marshlands contained in the park. Many species of birds usually found in more southern localities, including the Carolina wren, cardinal, cerulean warbler, and blue-gray gnatcatcher are common residents or regular migrants at Point Pelee. Beautifully plumaged pheasants make their home in the park.

On the eastern side of the outer part of Point Pelee is a very fine tract of southern Ontario hardwood trees of great size, which, with adjacent semi-open areas, has been set aside as a Nature Preserve, in which special protection is given to the flora and fauna of the park. Visitors are invited to walk the Nature Trail. A Park Naturalist is available in the summer for consultation.

This entire park area offers naturalists, especially bird lovers and botanists, an excellent field for study. It also provides a summer and autumn playground for thousands who come to enjoy its unique opportunities for outdoor life, rest, and recreation.

Registration and Motor Licences

All motorists entering Point Pelee Park must register and secure a motor licence. Licences are issued for motor vehicles, not used for commercial purposes, on the following basis:—

(1) Single trip, automobile..... $ .25
Automobile with trailer attached..... $ .50

(2) Special licence good for any number of trips during the year ending March 31st, which will also be honoured in Waterton Lakes, Elk Island, Prince Albert, and Riding Mountain National Parks:
Automobile..... $ 1
Automobile with trailer attached..... $ 2

(3) General licence good for entire season which will also be honoured in all national parks in Canada:
Automobile..... $ 2
Automobile with trailer attached..... $ 3

Licences may also be obtained for motor vehicles used for commercial purposes.

The park registration office is contained in the entrance gateway to the park.

Camping

A public campground and trailer court equipped with shelters, camp-stoves, and other modern conveniences is located approximately 4½ miles south of the park entrance. There is accommodation for 125 tents and 15 trailers. Electricity is available for trailers at a nominal rate of 35 cents a day.

Accommodation

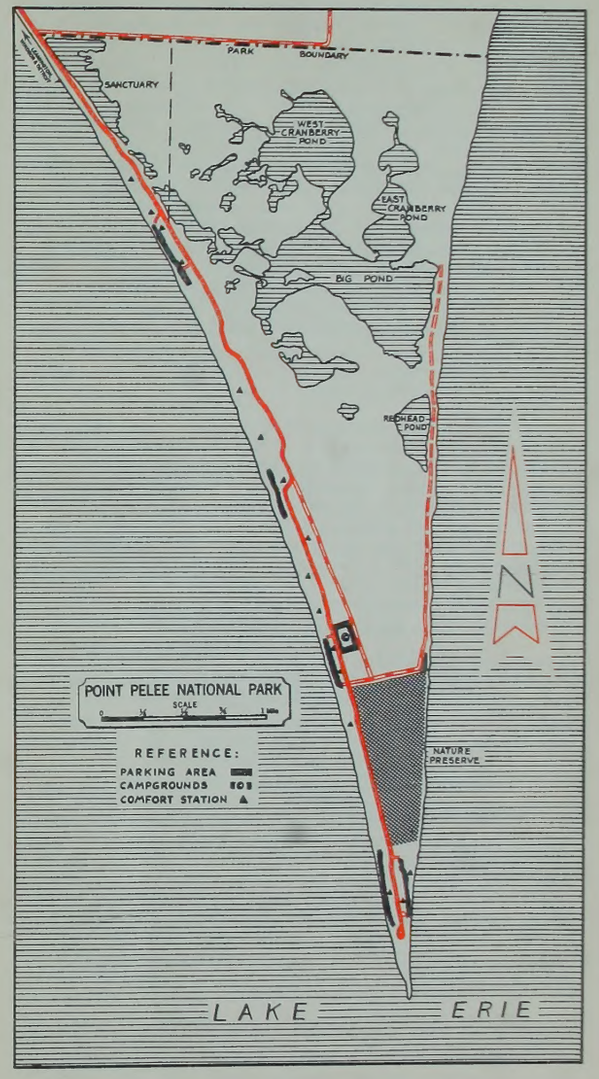
There is no hotel or motel accommodation available on park lands but it may be found in Leamington and vicinity.

Fire Prevention

Visitors are requested to co-operate with park officers in the prevention of fires. Smoking materials should be completely extinguished before being thrown away, and then dropped only on bare soil.

Camp fires may be kindled only at places provided for the purpose, and must be completely extinguished before campers leave the site. Persons camping out overnight, at other than established campgrounds, must first register with the nearest Park Warden and also obtain a permit to light a camp fire.

Any fire observed by a park visitor should be extinguished if possible. Fires which cannot be put out promptly should be reported to the nearest employee. Fire in a national park can cause damage which cannot be repaired in a hundred years.



GEORGIAN BAY ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK

Georgian Bay Islands National Park, 5.40 square miles, consists of 30 islands or portions of islands that form part of the great archipelago in Georgian Bay. These islands range in size from less than an acre to several square miles. Beausoleil Island, the largest in the park, is approximately five miles long and one mile wide, and contains an area of 2,712 acres or about four square miles.

This island once formed the home of a band of Chippewa or Ojibwa Indians, and remains of their settlements are still visible. An Indian village once stood on the site of the park headquarters building, and an Indian cemetery is nearby.

Camping

Camp-sites equipped with kitchen shelters, stoves, tables, benches, firewood, and sanitary conveniences are located at suitable points along the shores.

Details of the name, location, capacity and facilities of campgrounds are given in accommodation booklets available at the Park Information Bureaus or from the Canadian Government Travel Bureau, Ottawa.

Camping permits are obtainable at park headquarters.

Several permanent camps for boys and girls are operated on the island each summer by private organizations. The sites for these camps, held from year to year under special permit, are not available to the public.

Recreation

Bathing, boating, fishing, and hiking may be enjoyed on the island. Along the southeastern shore are a number of excellent bathing beaches which shelve gradually into the water. Boats may be rented at Honey Harbour and other places in the vicinity. Wharves have been constructed at various points on the island to facilitate the landing of motor-boats. Fishing is popular in waters adjacent to the park, and species most frequently caught include pike, pickerel, maskinonge, and black bass. Numerous trails lead to places of enchanting beauty on the island. The main trails are well marked, and their location may be checked with the map appearing in this folder.

Mammals found on the island include white-tailed deer, red fox, raccoon, porcupine, skunk, red, black and grey squirrel, chipmunk, muskrat, mink, beaver and weasel. Many species of songbirds and birds of brilliant plumage may be observed, and waterfowl frequent the shores and adjacent waters.

The forest growth on the island includes white pine, balsam fir, black spruce, cedar, beech, red and white oak, yellow and white birch, aspen, and ironwood. Wild flowers, ferns, and shrubs are abundant during the summer season.

FLOWERPOT ISLAND

Flowerpot Island forms an interesting unit of Georgian Bay Islands National Park. It lies in the channel connecting Georgian Bay with Lake Huron, about 100 miles northwest of Beausoleil Island and three miles northeast of Tobermory at the head of Bruce Peninsula. The island owes its name to two large rock pillars—sculptured by wave action and erosion from the adjacent limestone cliffs—which stand out boldly on the eastern shore like two immense flowerpots. Small trees and shrubs growing in fissures of the "pots" accentuate the resemblance. The large flowerpot is a fine example of a pedestal rock, and is nearly 50 feet high. The smaller flowerpot, about 200 yards distant, rises to a height of about 35 feet.

The island contains an area of 495 acres, of which 25 acres form a reserve surrounding a Dominion Government lighthouse. The shoreline is composed mainly of rock ledges —broken and strewn with blocks of stone—with occasional gravel beaches. Along the eastern and northeastern sides, cliffs of weathered limestone rise to a height of nearly 200 feet above the level of the lake, and in these cliffs are a number of deep caves. On the southeastern side of the island a small dock has been built in a sheltered bay which provides a good anchorage for motor-boats. The island is supervised by a caretaker who lives at Tobermory.

THE CAVES—The caves on the island are the result of ground-water circulation. The rocks in which they occur are all calcareous and dolomitic, and certain of their constituents have been taken into solution by the water, and carried away. Seven of the caves have been explored and found sufficiently large for entry. Four of these are situated along the eastern and three on the northern side of the island. The entrances are at elevations varying from 32 to 97 feet above the lake level, and are generally at or near the contact of the cliff face with the steep, wooded, talus slope below.

FAUNA AND FLORA—The island is heavily forested, mainly by coniferous species. Included are spruce, maple, balsam fir, pine, and cedar. Aspen poplar and birch are also found. There are numerous shrubs and other plant life. Deer have been observed, and fox and rabbit occur. Bird life is also fairly abundant.

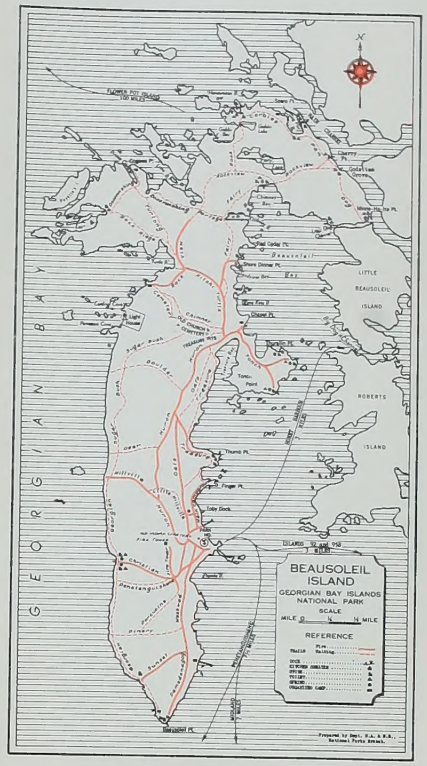
Camping

Convenient facilities for camping are provided. A small pavilion with tables and an outdoor stove for the use of visitors is located on the eastern shore of the island near the dock. There are also a stove and tables near the large flowerpot. Camp fires may be kindled at these points only. Hotel accommodation is available in Tobermory.

FISHING—The waters surrounding the island offer good fishing and species caught include maskinonge and black bass. Boats and the services of guides are available at Tobermory.

Provincial Fishing Licences

Non-residents of Ontario require a licence to angle in waters adjacent to the national parks described in this publication. Licences are issued by the Ontario Government.



NATIONAL HISTORIC PARKS IN ONTARIO

Fort Wellington

Overlooking the majestic St. Lawrence River at Prescott, Ontario, Fort Wellington National Historic Park is a vivid reminder of days gone by when the now peaceful International Boundary between Canada and the United States bristled with military posts. The park contains well preserved fortifications originally erected during the War of 1812-14 for the defence of communication between Kingston and Montreal, and is named after the great Duke of Wellington.

Although never besieged, Fort Wellington figured in two attacks made by its garrison on Ogdensburg, directly across the St. Lawrence River. The second attack, in 1813, resulted in the capture of that town, and the command of the river. During the rebellion of 1837-38, the Fort, neglected from 1815, was repaired and the large blockhouse within the earthworks rebuilt in its present substantial form. The Fort was also garrisoned during the Fenian Raids of 1866, and later in 1870 and 1886.

The fortifications consist of earthworks, pentagonal in shape, surrounded by a palisade and dry ditch which enclose the blockhouse. The latter is a massive stone building having walls four feet thick, with loop-holes. Inside the ramparts are the original officers' quarters, erected in 1812. The first floor of the blockhouse serves as a museum, which contains a number of very interesting exhibits.

Another interesting feature of the Fort is the caponniere, or listening post, a stone structure which extends outside the ramparts and is reached by a subterranean passage from the interior. The roof is constructed of solid cedar logs, and the walls, two and a half feet thick, are pierced with loop-holes. This caponniere was erected in 1838 by engineers from Kingston and was intended as an additional defence to guard the ramparts in case of attack.

The park is situated within the town of Prescott, accessible by Provincial Highway No. 2, and also served by lines of the Canadian Pacific and Canadian National Railways.

Woodside

"Woodside" is a large grey brick building set in park-like grounds on Wellington Street in Kitchener, Ontario. The house was built in the middle of the 19th century and is a good example of a well-to-do citizen's house of that period in the province. The interior of the home has been restored to present the authentic appearance of a family home of the late-Victorian period.

The property was leased about 1882 to John King, a leading lawyer of Berlin, as Kitchener was then named. To the house King brought his family, the oldest boy, then aged eight, being William Lyon Mackenzie King, the future Prime Minister of Canada. Woodside was young King's home for a decade during the years when his character was forming.

In 1943 the Mackenzie King Woodside Trust, a non-party body of private citizens, mostly from Kitchener and vicinity, took over the rapidly deteriorating property and restored it completely, making it a memorial to the late Prime Minister.

In 1954 Woodside was transferred to the Government of Canada and established as a national historic park.

ST. LAWRENCE ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK

St. Lawrence Islands Park, containing a total area of 172 acres, was established in 1914.

The islands and the mainland area which form the park, as well as the nearest points of approach, are briefly described in the following paragraphs:—

CEDAR Island, the most westerly of the park units, lies just outside the harbour of Kingston and contains an area of 23 acres. It is equipped with a pavilion, camp-stoves, and a drilled well.

Down the river and accessible from Gananoque are two groups of park islands. The first group includes MERMAID, BEAU RIVAGE, and AUBREY; the second group CAMELOT, ENDYMION, and GORDON Islands. Aubrey Island contains 14 acres; it has a pavilion. Beau Rivage Island, one of the most attractive of the group, contains 10 acres. It possesses fine bathing facilities, and two pavilions, one of which has kitchen conveniences and is popular as a community centre for junior groups. Gordon Island, 16 acres in extent, has a pavilion, and is covered with fine stands of oak, white birch, and maple trees. It, too, has a safe bathing beach. Mermaid, Camelot and Endymion have camp-stoves. There are also pavilions on Camelot and Endymion.

GEORGINA and CONSTANCE Islands are situated a short distance east of Ivy Lea. Lying side by side, these islands support abutments of the 1000 Islands International Bridge over the St. Lawrence River. Georgina has two fine pavilions; Constance has a camp-stove.

About a mile east of Rockport is GRENADIER Island, one of the largest in the vicinity. An area of 10 acres at the western end of the island has been developed for park purposes, and improvements made for the use of visitors include a pavilion, and camp-stoves.

The mainland reservation of MALLORYTOWN LANDING, situated about midway between Ivy Lea and Brockville, covers 10 acres and may be reached both from the river and the main highway. The area contains a fine grove of shade trees, as well as a pavilion, dressing rooms, and a bathing beach. ADELAIDE Island is accessible from Mallorytown Landing and has a pavilion, and camp-stoves.

STOVIN Island, situated about two miles west of Brockville, has an area of 10 acres and enjoys a wide popularity as a recreational resort. The island has two pavilions, two dressing rooms, a drilled well, camp-stoves and playground equipment. It is on the main channel for all boat traffic on the St. Lawrence River.

There is good fishing in the waters near the park islands, and species caught include black bass, pickerel, northern pike, and maskinonge.

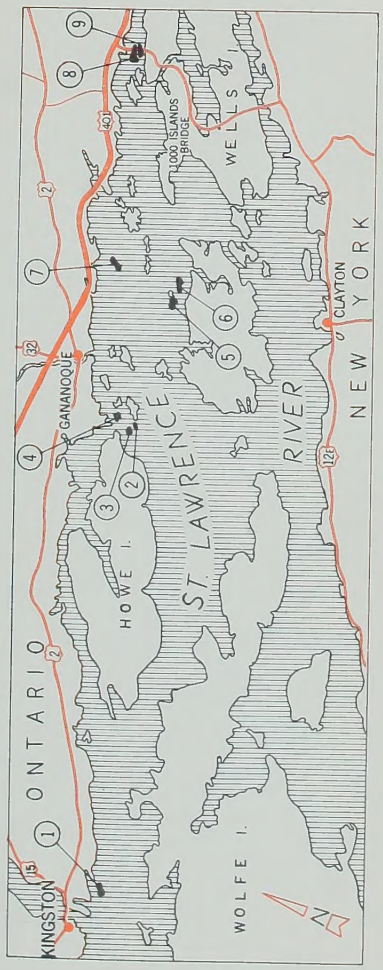
Details of the name, location, capacity and facilities of campgrounds are given in accommodation booklets available at the Park Information Bureaus or from the Canadian Government Travel Bureau, Ottawa.

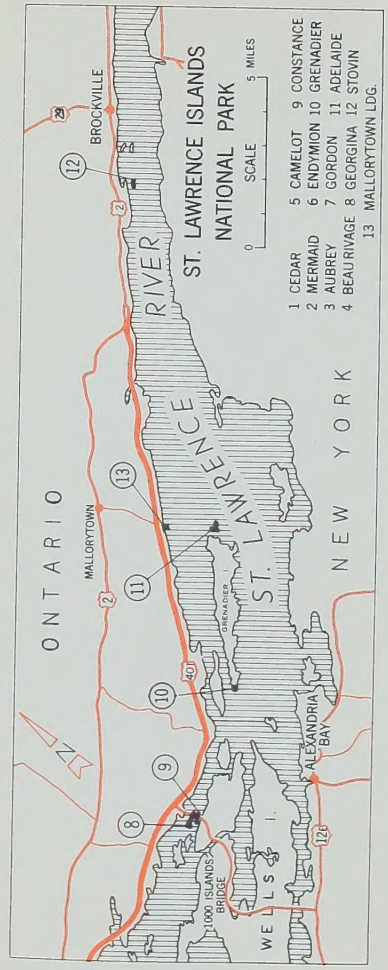
Persons wishing to camp within the park grounds should bring their own camping equipment, as there is no alternative accommodation.

Provisions are obtainable in adjacent towns at reasonable prices.

Wharves have been constructed at various points on the Islands to facilitate the landing of motor boats.

The Islands comprising the parks also have ideal sites for picnicking.





Fort Malden

Fort Malden National Historic Park at Amherstburg, Ontario, forms an interesting link with early events in Canadian history. Following the surrender of Detroit by British forces in 1796, Fort Malden was constructed on the banks of the Detroit River between 1797 and 1799 by the Royal Canadian Volunteers, and for the next 40 years was one of the principal frontier military posts in Upper Canada.

During the war of 1812-14 Fort Malden played a conspicuous part, and was the rallying point for the British forces that captured Detroit in 1812. Following the Battle of Lake Erie, in 1813, Fort Malden was dismantled and vacated by the British. Occupied by an invading force from the United States, it was held until 1815 when it was evacuated under the provisions of the Treaty of Ghent. During the border raids of 1837-38, Fort Malden again became an important military post, and for a time was garrisoned by a considerable force.

The site, including part of the remaining earthworks, was acquired by the Canadian Government in 1937, and was established as a national historic park in 1941. It covers an area of five acres. Important events connected with the site have been commemorated, and the museum buildings on the park grounds house a large number of interesting exhibits relating to the history of the region. Amherstburg is situated on Highway No. 18, about 16 miles from Windsor.

Films

Motion picture films, 16mm., mostly in colour with sound, depicting National Parks of Canada are available through various distribution outlets in Canada and the United States.

Full information can be obtained from all regional offices of the National Film Board in Canada, and from the Canadian Travel Film Libraries at:

- 680 Fifth Ave., New York 19, N.Y., U.S.A.
- 230 North Michigan, Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.
- 1 Grosvenor Square, London W. 1., England
- Ciné Mathèque canadienne de films touristiques, 1 rue Chanez, Paris 16e, France

Compiled in co-operation with the National Parks Branch, Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources

For additional information write to:

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TRAVEL BUREAU
- Ottawa, Canada.
- 680 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.—10019
- 102 West Monroe Street (Corner Clark Street), Chicago, Ill.—60603
- 1 Second Street (Corner Market), San Francisco, Calif.—94105
- 19 Cockspur St., London, S.W. 1, England.

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FOREWORD

The National Parks of Canada are areas of natural beauty and special interest that have been "dedicated to the people of Canada for their benefit, education, and enjoyment". Established primarily for the preservation of the unspoiled natural landscape and for the protection of the native wildlife, they are to be "maintained and made use of so as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations".

The discovery of hot mineral springs, bubbling from the slopes of Sulphur Mountain, by construction workers exploring the route for Canada's first transcontinental railway, led to the establishment of Canada's first national park. From this small area of ten square miles at Banff, Alberta, set apart in 1885, the national parks system has been extended until it embraces 40 separate areas totalling more than 29,000 square miles.

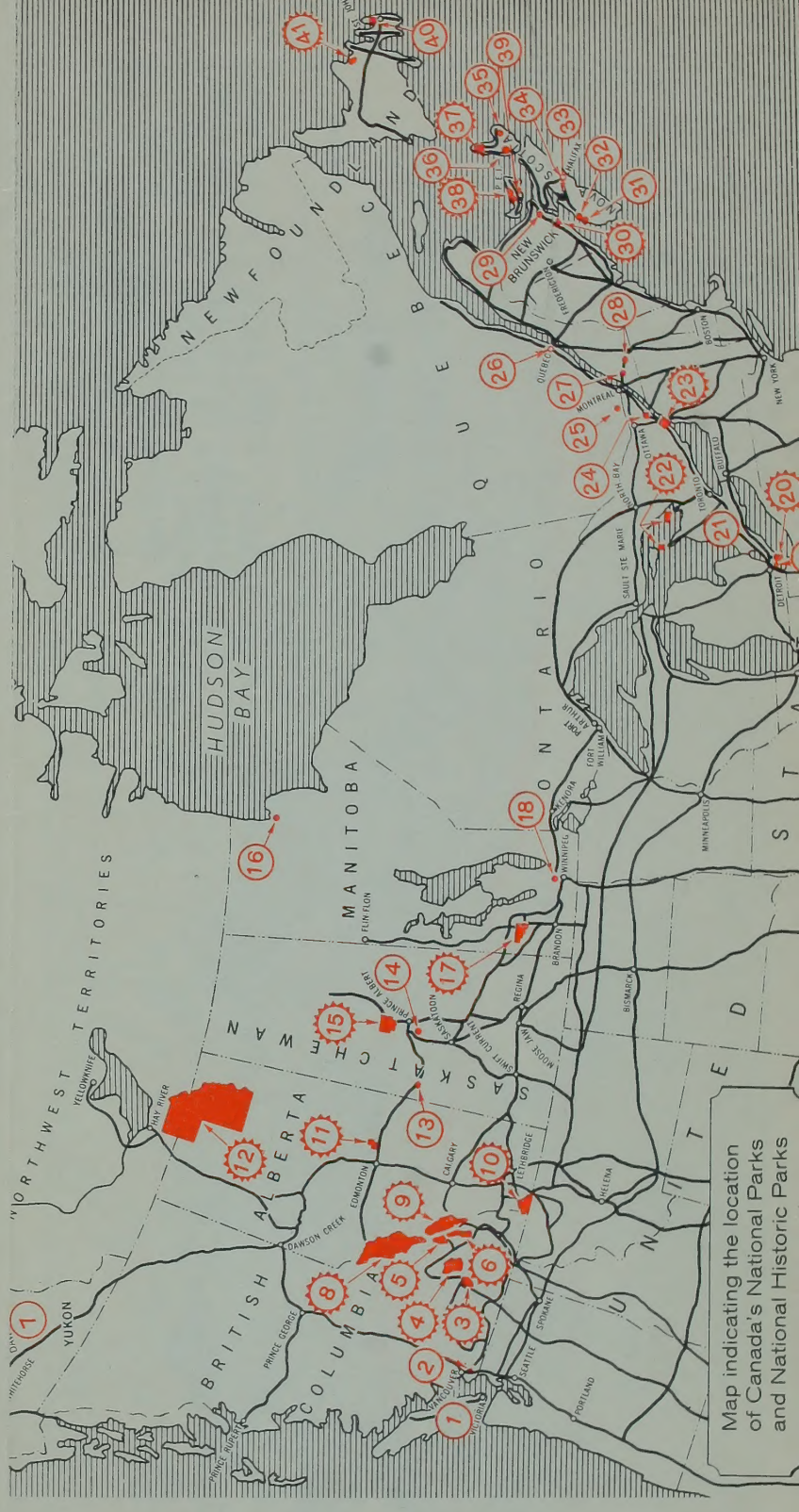
Although a few parks have been devoted chiefly to the conservation of certain species of big game animals once threatened with extinction, some contain sites memorable in the early history of Canada. Others have been developed so that park visitors may more conveniently view the magnificent scenery and relax in the enjoyment of the inspirational and peaceful environment. From the sea-girt hills on the Atlantic Coast across the rivers and lakes of Central Canada to the alpine vistas of the Rockies and Selkirks, these selected areas provide ideal opportunities for nature study and for recreation.

It is the responsibility of the National Parks Branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources to administer these natural areas for the enjoyment of Canada's present and future generations. By progressive stages the parks have been made more accessible, wildlife scientifically managed, public services provided, and accommodation and recreational facilities expanded. A staff of trained wardens keeps constant vigilance throughout these park areas to ensure the protection of the flora and fauna, as well as the safety and convenience of park visitors. Conservation of the forests, the flowers, and the natural wildlife is the chief concern of the wardens, and the co-operation of all visitors in this important work is appreciated.

National historic sites are marked, preserved and restored by the National Historic Sites Division, National Parks Branch. Advice on these activities is given by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada; a committee of historians representing Canada as a whole. From Signal Hill in Newfoundland to Rodd Hill in British Columbia nineteen such sites are administered as National Historic Parks and many other places of historical importance have been suitably commemorated.

The National Parks of Canada are part of a great national heritage, and under careful administration they will continue as a perpetual asset — undiminished by use — for all future generations.

Published by authority of
The Hon. Mitchell Sharp
Minister of Trade and Commerce



Key to map of

National Parks

3. Mount Revelstoke
4. Glacier
5. Yoho
6. Kootenay
8. Jasper
9. Banff
10. Waterton Lakes
11. Elk Island
12. Wood Buffalo
15. Prince Albert
17. Riding Mountain
20. Point Pelee
22. Georgian Bay Islands
23. St. Lawrence Islands
30. Fundy
37. Cape Breton Highland
38. Prince Edward Island
41. Terra Nova

National Historic Parks

1. Fort Rodd Hill
2. Fort Langley
7. Palace Grand and S.S. Keno at Dawson City
13. Fort Battleford
14. Batoche Rectory
16. Prince of Wales' Fort
18. Lower Fort Garry
19. Fort Malden
21. Woodside
24. Fort Wellington
25. Sir Wilfred Laurier's Birthplace
26. Cartier-Brébeuf
27. Fort Chambly
28. Fort Lennox
29. Fort Beauséjour
31. Port Royal
32. Fort Anne
33. Grand Pré
34. Halifax Citadel
35. Fortress of Louisbourg
36. Alexander Graham Bell Museum
39. Fort Amherst
40. Signal Hill

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